LESS REMAKES AND REBOOTS

HEAR OUR PLEA FOR DIVERSITY IN MOVIES. PAGE 13

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Summer movie. George Clooney's new film "Tomorrowland" adds a jolt of optimism to our bleak times. The actor didn't even mind that it cast him as a middle-aged grump. PAGE 12

Mr. Brightside

George Clooney gets to play very, very close to his age as a 50-something former boy genius in the Disney adventure romp "Tomorrowland." / GETTY IMAGES

Get a glimpse of the 2nd Ave. subway

PAGE 02

US capitol gyrocopter pilot in court

PAGE 10

Lightning may be too quick for Rangers

PAGE 17

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NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 'Winners of "The Voice": Where are they now?'

2 'The pharmacy that caters to the 1 percent at $6,500 a month for membership'

3 'After 72 years, Oklahoma veteran to receive high school diploma'

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Sentenced

Man gets 110 years in prison for 2012 shootout with police

A Brooklyn man convicted of opening fire on five police officers after barricading himself in his apartment was sentenced to 110 years to life in prison on Thursday.

Nakwon Foxworth, 36, of Sheepshead Bay was convicted of two counts of aggravated assault on a police officer, three counts of attempted aggravated assault upon a police officer, three counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, one count of third-degree criminal possession of a weapon and one count of second-degree menacing following an April trial. He was sentenced as a persistent violent felony offender.

On April 8, 2012, Foxworth got into a verbal argument with movers, who left items in the hallway of his Sheepshead Bay apartment building, and later pulled a gun on them, according to testimony.

Foxworth then holed up in his apartment with his girlfriend and their 10-month-old son, still armed with a gun. Foxworth let the woman and baby leave the apartment about an hour after officers arrived on scene, and then opened fire on five officers. METRO

Quoted

This convicted felon could have killed those five brave police officers who literally risked their lives to save a woman and her 10-month-old child. He's not fit to remain in our society and deserves the sentence that he got today,"

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson

The MTA offered a press tour Thursday of the Second Avenue Subway line, which is making progress on construction. / BESS ADLER, METRO

A light at the end of the tunnel

Chugging along. The Second Avenue subway is coming, the MTA says.

The first phase of the Second Avenue subway is about 82 percent complete, on time and under budget, Michael Horodniceanu, president of the MTA Capital Construction Company, optimistically warned reporters on Thursday morning during a construction tour.

"I'm not going to kid myself, this is the toughest," Horodniceanu said, before adding that all the new systems need to be integrated to the older technology of existing stations.

And additional phases of the project, which will extend up to 125th Street and create a new line called the T from 125th Street down to Hanover Square, are still not funded under the MTA's Capital Plan, which is $15.2 billion short.

The first leg of the project started in 2007, and extends Q train service from 96th Street to 63rd Street.

Three new stations, more spacious without the traditional columns, are being built at 72nd, 86th and 96th streets.

Once complete, riders can look forward to Wi-Fi in the new stations and climate control that cools the station to about 10 degrees below the air temperature above ground. Neighbors and businesses will benefit from the low vibration tracks, and high-heel enthusiasts will not have to worry about getting their shoes stuck in grates above ground.

The traditional small white tiles of the subway walls are being replaced with large, easy-to-clean porcelain panels, with station numbers in a new font.

Once the $4.451 billion first phase is complete, about 200,000 riders will be diverted from the overcrowded 4,5 and 6 lines that carry 1.6 million passengers every weekday.

"We absolutely have enough money," Horodniceanu said of completing the first phase of improvements. "The second phase we're asking for money."

The second phase will connect 125th Street to 96th Street and is expected to cost $1.5 billion.

Quoted

"The proof is in the real estate. It's up about 30 percent. I believe a lot of new development will sprout because of this line."

Horodniceanu

By the numbers

MTA promises for first phase of Second Avenue subway:

- Serve 200,000 riders a day
- Cut crowding on the 4, and 6 by 13 percent, or 23,500 fewer riders on weekdays
- Travel from the Upper East Side will be 10 minutes quicker
- **Construction specs:**
  - 22,000 feet of tracks will be installed, 8,750 have already gone in
  - 3,400 feet of aluminum third rail
  - 12 new entrances

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Crime

Brazen bike bandit snatching phones, purses

Watch your bags and purses, New Yorkers. A thief on a bicycle has been snatching purses and phones out of women's hands over the last few months in New York City.

The bag and phone snatches happened in the vicinity of Gramercy, Union Square, Flatiron and Chelsea.

A man on a bike snatched bags in Gramercy and Chelsea. / NYPD

Police say the suspect rode up next to the women on his bike and grabbed their bags or their phones and rode off. In all the robberies, he was riding either a Citi Bike or another bike with a basket in the front. The victims were mostly women in their 20s and 30s, police said. Most recently, a 42-year-old woman was standing in front of a store on East 17th Street when the thief rode up and stole her pocketbook.

The incidents happened at 9 p.m. or later — so be extra vigilant if you're heading out to those areas after dark.

Call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS to help cops catch the suspect. NIDHI PRAKASH

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It's finally that time of year — well, almost. / GETTY IMAGES

New York beaches open this weekend

Memorial Day weekend. It's that time of year again — get out the sunscreen and sling on the bathing suits.

New Yorkers can hit the beach this long weekend, and it looks like the weather will cooperate, especially on Saturday and Sunday, with temperatures in the 70s and 80s and mostly clear skies.

This year, Jacob Riis Park Beach is sure to be a favorite for those who make the trip there, with Brooklyn Night Bazaar relocating there for the summer. The Riis Park Beach Bazaar will feature many of the same food vendors that drew crowds to Greenpoint and live entertainment several days of the week.

Three more of the best places for a trip to the beach:

Fort Tilden, Queens

A local favorite located on the Rockaway peninsula, Fort Tilden is accessible by bus, subway or ferry and is open daily to the public, dawn to dusk. Originally a U.S. Army artillery post, the fort was decommissioned in 1974 and reopened last year after recovering from damage by Hurricane Sandy. Now, you can finally enjoy the beach's sandy lengths for a day of hiking, fishing or a scenic walk, though swimming is not recommended since no lifeguards are in attendance.

Robert Moses State Park, Long Island

This Long Island beach is less crowded than neighboring Jones Beach but is just as much of a classic getaway. Enjoy the clean sand and waves at your own risk, though — walk too close to the lighthouse, and you'll encounter a nude beach.

Long Branch, NJ

If you're willing to hop the border to Jersey, check out the Long Branch beach. You can enjoy more than two miles of sandy coastline with areas for volleyball, swimming and picnicking.

RACHEL LEE AND NIDHI PRAKASH
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5 new york Weekend, May 22-25, 2015

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U.S. Navy sailors gather outside a bar during Fleet Week festivities on May 26, 2012. / GETTY IMAGES

Our top picks for Fleet Week

Weekend. Fleet Week offers events for the public beyond just spotting sailors on the streets around town.

Friday

General Public Visitation

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Pier 92 | Manhattan, New York; USS The Sullivans Pier | Staten Island
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Pier 86 | Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum
Ship tours will be held aboard U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard ships. Lines may be capped at 3 p.m. to allow guests to finish their tours.

U.S. Navy Dive Demos

8:30 - 10 a.m.; Noon - 1:30 p.m.; 3 - 4:40 p.m.
USS The Sullivans Pier | Staten Island
The U.S. Navy's EOD mobile dive tank is a 6,800 gallon, dynamic display that allows interaction with the public and prospective recruits for the Navy Special Warfare and Navy Special.

Military Band Concert

5 - 8 p.m.
Military Island at 43rd - 44th St. Plaza | Times Square
Navy Band Northeast's "Rhode Island Sound" and the U.S. Marine (USMC) Band will perform. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Silent Drill Team will also perform.

Saturday

Aviation Static Display

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Eisenhower Park | East Meadow
U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps will display aviation and operational equipment. Navy Band Northeast "Brass Band" will perform.

U.S. Coast Guard Search and Rescue Demo

Noon - 12:30 p.m.
Pier 92 | U.S. Coast Guard will conduct a Search and Rescue demo in the water off of Manhattan for visitors to see. Event is free and open to the public.

NYC Tattoo Music Festival

7 - 8:30 p.m.
69th Armory, Lexington Ave.
Navy Band Northeast will provide a bugler for the performance of the NYC Tattoo Music Festival. Event is free and open to the public.
**** Note that the Tattoo Music Festival is about military bands, not body art***

Sunday

Greenpoint Veterans Memorial Parade

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
American Legion Post #519 (Leonard Street) | Brooklyn
Military personnel scheduled to participate. The annual parade starts at the American Legion Post 519 and ends at St. Anthony's Church.

College Point Memorial Day Parade

12:30 - 5 p.m.
College Point Blvd. & MacNeil Park | College Point, New York
The annual parade is hosted by the Citizens of College Point. Military personnel scheduled to participate.

Fleet Week New York Community Music Festival

1 - 5 p.m.
Flagship Brewery (40 Minthorne St.) | Staten Island, New York
The Flagship Brewery and Staten Island community members scheduled to host a music festival in honor of Fleet Week New York. Navy Band Northeast "Rhode Island Sound" (3:30 - 5 p.m.) and local bands will perform. Event is free and open to the public.

You can find more details about fleet week at Metro.us.

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Five things you need to know

1 Detroit prosecutors join criminal probe of Takata over airbags

Prosecutors in Detroit have joined the U.S. federal probe into Takata Corp.'s defective airbag inflators that are linked to at least six deaths globally.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan and the U.S. Department of Justice's criminal division, including the fraud section in Washington, "are jointly handling the criminal investigation into Takata," Gina Balaya, spokeswoman for the Detroit office, said on Thursday.

"We have been cooperating fully and are engaged in a regular dialog with the Department of Justice, and we will continue to do so," a Takata spokesman said.

Takata's airbag inflators have been found to explode with too much force, spraying metal fragments inside cars and forcing automakers to recall more than 53 million vehicles worldwide since 2008. All of the deaths linked to the faulty part occurred in cars made by the supplier's top customer, Honda Motor Co. REUTERS

Stephanie Erdman of Destin, Florida, was seriously injured by an airbag explosion in her Honda Civic. / GETTY IMAGES

2 Illinois lawmakers pass bill for marijuana

The Illinois Senate passed a bill decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana, sending it to the governor for signature.

The bill, which passed with a 37-19 vote, makes possession of up to 15 grams of marijuana a civil law violation punishable by a $125 fine. Individuals will not face jail time.

The measure was approved by the Illinois House of Representatives in April. A spokeswoman for Governor Bruce Rauner, a Republican, did not say whether he would sign it. REUTERS

3 Russia warns Google, Twitter and Facebook on violations

Russia's media watchdog has written to Google, Twitter and Facebook, warning them against violating Russian Internet laws, and a spokesman said they risk being blocked if they do not comply with the rules.

Roskomnadzor said it had sent letters this week to the three U.S.-based Internet firms asking them to comply with Internet laws which critics of President Vladimir Putin have decried as censorship.

"In our letters we regularly remind [companies] of the consequences of violating the legislation," said Roskomnadzor spokesman Vadim Ampelonsky. REUTERS

4 Boy Scouts president says ban on gay leaders cannot stay

Boy Scouts of America President Robert Gates said the group's ban on adult gay leaders cannot be sustained, a move that could open the door to ending the policy that has caused rifts in the organization.

Gates said at a national meeting of the group that he does not plan to revoke the charter of Boy Scout councils that allow gay leaders, according to a text of the speech.

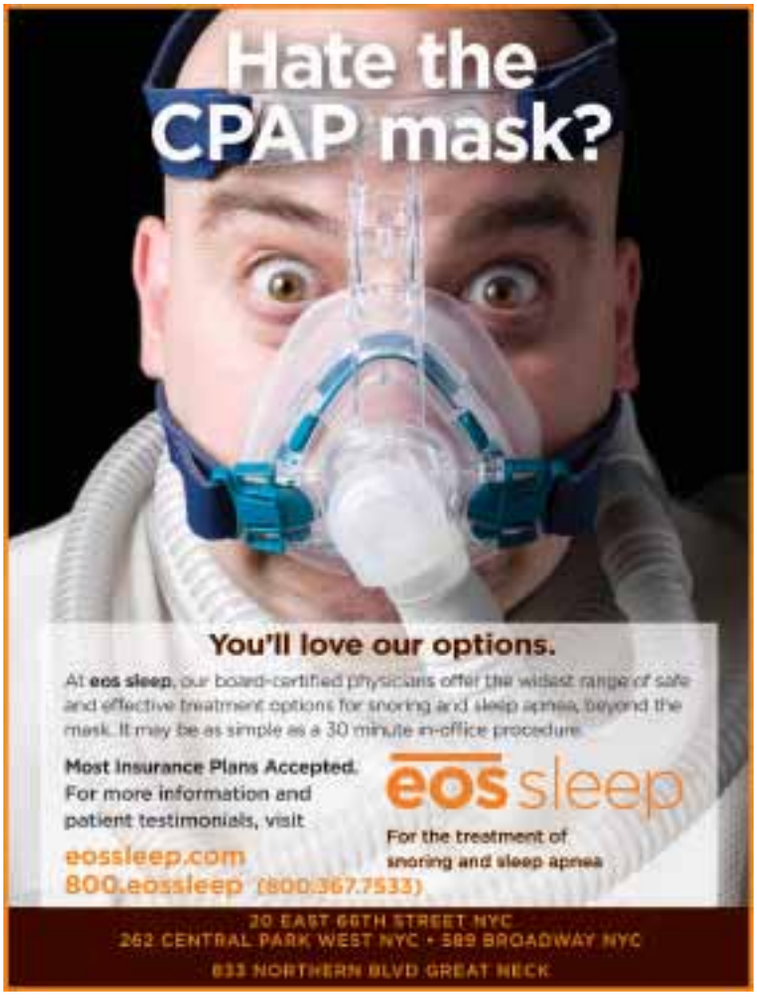
"We must deal with the world as it is, not as we might wish it to be. The status quo in our movement's membership standards cannot be sustained," said Gates. REUTERS

5 Woman kept in box found murdered

A Missouri woman who escaped captivity from a wooden box three weeks ago was found dead in a home on Thursday, along with her son, and police are searching for the man suspected both of locking her up and of murdering her.

Officers found Sandra Kay Sutton, 46, and son Zachary Wade Sutton, 17, shot dead in a house in Clinton, Missouri, according to a news release from the Clinton Police.

On April 30, Sutton told police that her former boyfriend, identified as James B. Horn Jr., 47, had routinely locked her in a box in their home in Sedalia, Missouri, over a four-month period. REUTERS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Oil spill. Cleanup of oil-fouled California beach continues

Cleanup teams continue to remove patches of crude petroleum that stained a California beach and fouled offshore waters from a pipeline rupture that may rank as the biggest oil spill to hit the Santa Barbara coastline in more than four decades.

As many as 2,500 barrels (105,000 gallons) of crude oil, according to the latest estimates, gushed onto Refugio State Beach and into the Pacific west of Santa Barbara when an underground pipeline running parallel to a coastal highway there inexplicably burst on Tuesday morning.

Plains All American Pipeline, which owns and operates the 24-inch line, said it shut off the flow about 30 minutes after control-room operators detected pressure irregularities.

By then, however, a torrent of oil had streamed down a canyon, under a culvert and onto the once-pristine beach, blackening a 4-mile stretch of sand and rocks and leaving two oil slicks in the water spanning more than 9 miles in length.

The company estimated that up to a fifth of the spill had reached the ocean.

Environmental activists and local officials said it was believed to be the largest oil spill in 46 years along the ecologically sensitive but energy-rich Santa Barbara shoreline, about 125 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

If the pipeline company's "worst-case" estimate of its oil release holds up, it would mark the biggest in the region since a 1969 offshore oil well blowout that dumped 80,000 to 100,000 barrels of crude petroleum into the Santa Barbara Channel and stands as the largest spill ever in California waters.

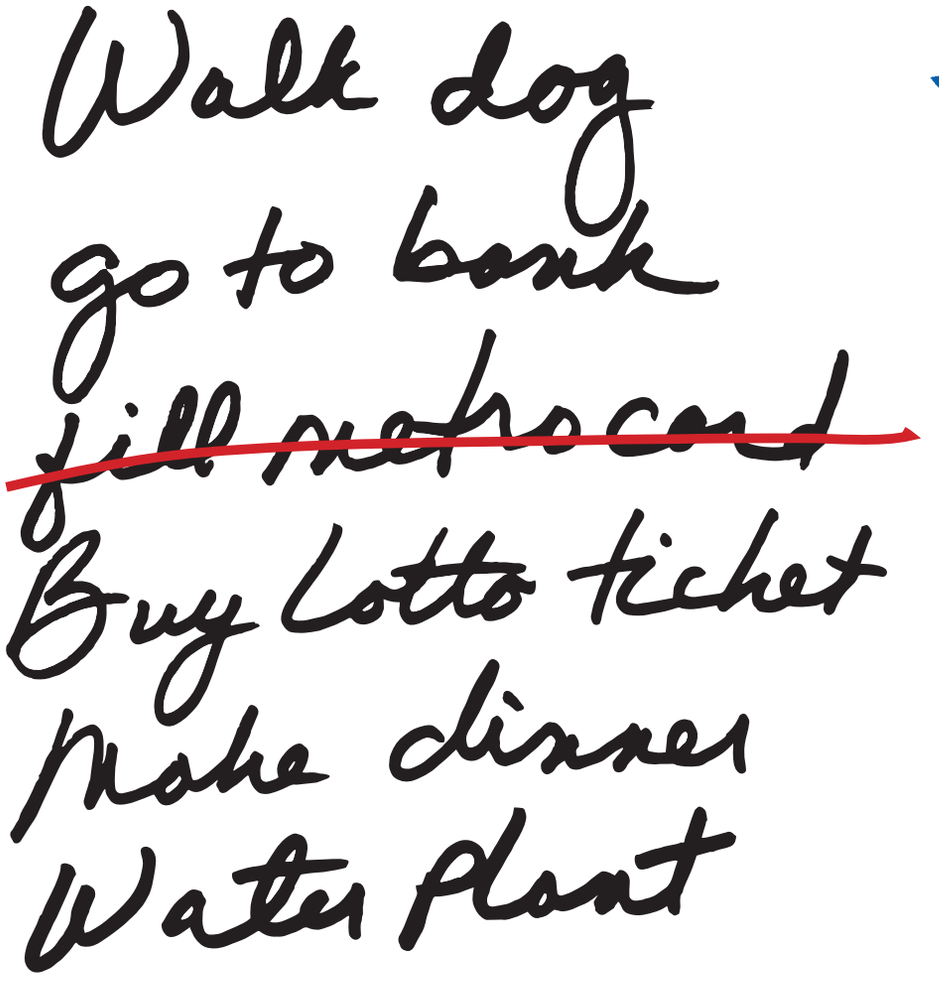
Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for Santa Barbara County to hasten the availability of any resources needed. REUTERS

An oil-covered lobster lies dead on the beach after an oil spill near Refugio State Beach north of Goleta, California. / GETTY IMAGES

Cleanup

9

Nine cleanup vessels plied the ocean, corralling the slick with booms and skimming oil from the surface.



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May 15-18

Weekend Service Changes & Advisories

Special Events
The Color Run at Citi Field
Saturday, May 23, 2015, 9 AM

1 S Ferry-bound skip: Christopher, Houston, Canal and Franklin Sts
-Van Cortlandt Park-bound skip: 50 St, 59 St and 66 St

2 Flatbush Av-bound skip: Christopher, Houston, Canal and Franklin Sts
-Wakefield-bound skip: 50 St, 59 St and 66 St

3 Rockaway Av and Van Siclen Av Stations: 4 closed for renovation

5 No trains between E 180 St and Bowling Green 5 trains provide alternate service

6 103 St data platform: closed for renovation
-Extended to Bowling Green

7 No trains between Main St and Willets Point
-Vernon Blvd-Jackson Av: trains board at the Times Sq-bound platform

A Inwood-bound skip: 72, 81, 86, 96, 103, 110 and 116 Sts
-Ozone Park/Far Rockaway-bound platform at Rockaway Blvd: closed for renovation

C 168 St-bound skip: 72, 81, 86, 96, 103, 115, 116 Sts
-Euclid Av-bound skip: 50 St, 23 St and Spring St

D Coney Island-bound: run via the N|con| from 36 St to Stillwell Av

E Trains run local in both directions between Roosevelt Av to 71 Av

F Coney Island-bound: run via the D from Roosevelt Av to Canal St, then via the D to Jay St-MetroTech
-Trains run in both directions between Roosevelt Av and 71 Av

M Service extended to the Chambers St J Station

N Astoria-bound: run via the from DeKalb Av to Canal St
-Coney Island-bound trains stop at 45 St and 53 St

Q 57 St/7 Av-bound: run via the from DeKalb Av to Canal St
-Coney Island-bound: run express from Prospect Park to Kings Hwy

R 36 St-bound shuttle train stops at 53 St and 45 St
-Service extended to the 179 St F Station

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NOTICE OF FRANCHISE AND CONCESSION REVIEW COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING ON AGENCY ANNUAL CONCESSION PLANS

Notice of a Franchise and Concession Review Committee (FCRC) Public Hearing on Agency Annual Concession Plans for Fiscal Year 2016 pursuant to Section 1-10 of the Concession Rules of the City of New York (Concession Rules), to be held on Monday, June 8, 2015, commencing at 2:30PM, and located at 253 Broadway, 14th Floor Conference Room, Manhattan. At this hearing, the FCRC will further solicit comments about the provisions of the Concession Rules from the vendor community, civic groups and the public at large. The FCRC shall consider the issues raised at the Public Hearing in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Charter under the City Administrative Procedure Act.

The following agencies submitted an Annual Concession Plan for Fiscal Year 2016: the Department of Parks and Recreation; the Department of Citywide Administration Services; the Department of Environmental Protection; the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; the Department of Homeless Services; the Department of Corrections; the Department of Transportation; the Department of Sanitation; the New York City Fire Department; the Department of Housing Preservation and Development; the NYC & Company on behalf of the Department of Small Business Services; the New York City Economic Development Corporation on behalf of the Department of Small Business Services; and the New York City Police Department.

The portfolio of Agency Annual Concession Plans covers significant and non-significant concessions expiring, continuing and anticipated for solicitation or initiation in Fiscal Year 2016. Furthermore, the portfolio covers, inter alia:

- Department of Parks and Recreation: mobile food units, food service facilities, golf courses, driving ranges, marinas, tennis professionals, athletic facilities, Christmas trees, parking lots, markets, fairs, restaurants, concerts, newsstands, stables, gas stations, amusement venues, ice skating rinks, carousels, ferry services, bike rentals, circus, sailboat rentals, souvenirs and gifts, beach equipment, and event programming.
- Department of Citywide Administrative Services: maritime/non-maritime occupancy permits, and vending machines.
- Department of Environmental Protection: gas purification.
- Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: drug discount card program.
- Department of Homeless Services: athletic facilities.
- Department of Corrections: food services, mobile food units, vending machines and cell tower.
- Department of Transportation: vending machines, pedestrian plazas, food courts and dispatch booth/pick-up area for car service.
- Department of Sanitation: advertising.
- New York City Fire Department: fire museum and collections.
- Department of Housing Preservation and Development: vending machines, and café.
- NYC & Company on behalf of the Department of Small Business Services: marketing, advertising, intellectual property and trademark merchandising.
- New York City Economic Development Corporation on behalf of the Department of Small Business Service: parking lots, maritime and non-maritime occupancy permits.
- New York City Police Department: vending machines and cafeteria.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the Agency Annual Concession Plans by contacting Stephanie Ruiz by phone at 212-676-3069. Hard copies will be provided at a cost of $.25 per page by check or money order made payable to the New York City Department of Finance. Upon request, a PDF version of the Agency Annual Concession Plans is available free of cost.

Florida man who flew gyrocopter to Capitol pleads not guilty

US Capitol. The flight of the small, unauthorized aircraft was among the most high-profile of recent security lapses.

Doug Hughes holds a poster during a news conference outside of the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse. / GETTY IMAGES

The Florida man who flew a gyrocopter onto the U.S. Capitol grounds pleaded not guilty on Thursday to charges of breaching restricted airspace.

Douglas Hughes, a 61-year-old mail carrier from Ruskin, Florida, was indicted by a federal grand jury on Wednesday. His April 15 stunt was aimed at drawing attention to the need for campaign finance reform.

The flight of the small, unauthorized aircraft was among the most high-profile of recent security lapses at the U.S. Capitol.

Public defender Tony Miles, Hughes' attorney, entered the plea before U.S. Magistrate Judge Alan Kay. Hughes faces six charges, including violating the registration requirements for an aircraft and national defense airspace.

Quoted

"The purpose [of the flight] was to get Congress to work for the people and not for special interests." Hughes

Hughes made no comment during the hearing but told reporters afterward that Congress had to reform campaign finance laws.

Hughes said he was open to a plea agreement with prosecutors. He held up a mock U.S. postage stamp with his picture on it, presented by a handful of supporters who shouted, "Thank you, Doug!"

Hughes was arrested after piloting the craft from Pennsylvania and landing on the west lawn of the Capitol as police and tourists looked on. He was carrying a letter for each of the 535 members of Congress.

If convicted of all charges, he could be sentenced to up to nine and a half years in prison. Aircraft are banned from flying in the area of the Capitol and White House without permission.

Hughes is charged with lacking a pilot's certificate or registration for the craft. Hughes owned the gyrocopter, but it carried the unauthorized logo and emblem of the U.S. Postal Service, the indictment said. REUTERS

Freddie Gray death

Grand jury indicts Baltimore police

A grand jury has returned charges against six Baltimore police officers in the death of Freddie Gray, Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby told a news conference on Thursday.

Gray, 25, died on April 19 of injuries suffered while in police custody, and Mosby had filed charges against the six officers early this month. They will be arraigned on July 2, Mosby said. REUTERS

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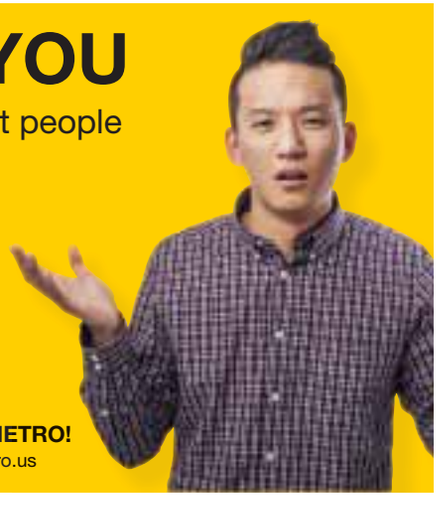

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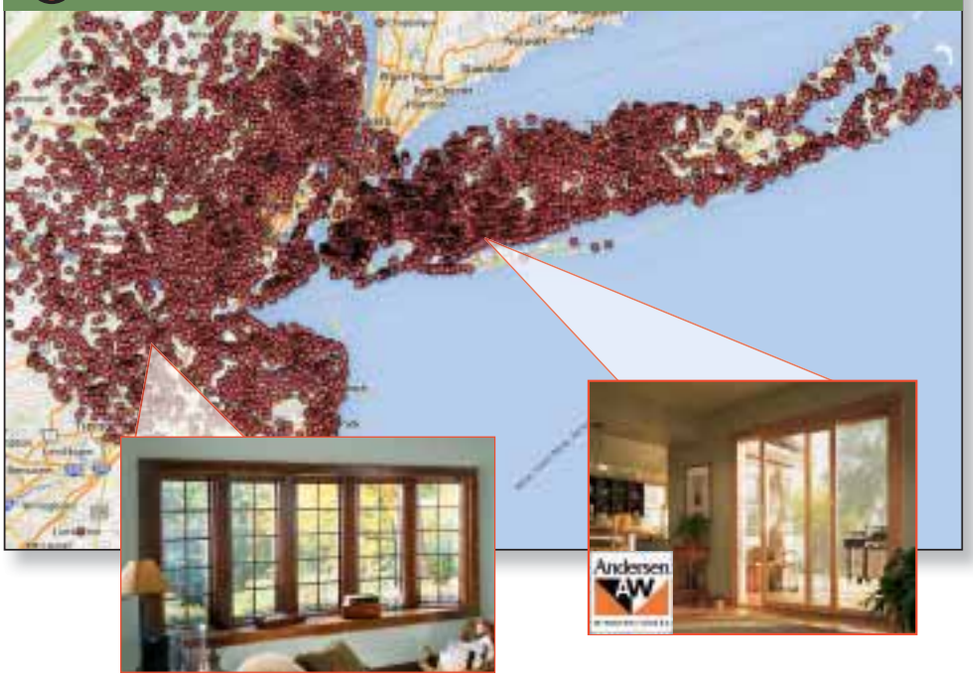

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Clooney monitors the world's decline in "Tomorrowland."
WALT DISNEY PICTURES

George Clooney, eternal optimist

The "Tomorrowland" star plays bitter and grumpy in the new sci-fi film, but inside, he's nothing but hopeful.

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George Clooney may be one of the few bona fide movie stars we have left, but he still thinks he's a bit out of place in the summer blockbuster arena. "Putting me in a summer movie is a very bold thought," he says with his trademark smirk. "First and foremost, I think it's a really bold thing for Disney to be willing to do a film that isn't a sequel and isn't a comic book and truly invest in a summer film of this sort of ilk."

What sort of ilk, exactly? "Tomorrowland," directed by Brad Bird and written by Bird and "Lost" creator Damon Lindelof, features Clooney as "a former genius, boy genius, who's gotten bitter in his old age" — as Clooney himself describes it — who teams up with a precocious teen (Britt Robertson) to get back to the secret world of Tomorrowland, an alternate realm the smartest minds disappeared to back in the 1960s to build a better future.

"Just so we're clear, when Damon and Brad showed up at my house, they said, 'We've got a part we've written for you,'" Clooney remembers. "And then I opened up the description of the character — 'a 55-year-old has-been.' I'm kind of going, 'Wait, hey, hey, hey, hang on a minute. Which part am I reading for?'"

Luckily, 54-year-old Clooney got over any lingering sense of vanity. "I just loved the idea," he says. "We live in a world right now where you turn on your television, and it's rough out there, and it can really wear on you after a period of time. We see generations now feeling as if it's sort of hopeless in a way. What I love about [the film] is it speaks to the idea that your future is not preordained, and that if you're involved, a single voice can make a difference — and I believe in that."

That 1960s optimism is something Clooney would like to see more of here in the 21st century. "I grew up during the Cold War period, and I always found that although we always thought that the world would end in a nuclear holocaust at some point, everybody was pretty hopeful," he says. "There was an awful lot of things going on that you felt you could change. I grew up in an era where the voice really did feel as if it mattered." It's what struck him about "Tomorrowland."

"It reminds you that young people don't start out their lives cynical or angry or bigoted. You have to be taught all of those things," explains the star. "I watch the world now and think, 'Well, I see really good signs from young people, and I feel as if the world will get better.' I've always been an optimist. I've been a realist, but I've been an optimist about it."

"What I love about it is it speaks to the idea that your future is not preordained, and that if you're involved, a single voice can make a difference — and I believe in that."

Here's looking at you, Clooney.
GETTY IMAGES

Where are all the original movies?

Remember this image from 1982's "Poltergeist"? It's been revived for the inevitable remake. / 20TH CENTURY FOX, MGM

Hollywood has become one giant nostalgic infinity loop of brands. Let's hope for some new ideas.

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This weekend sees the release of "Poltergeist" — no, not the 1982 horror original, but rather a souped-up remake. Last weekend an even older franchise, "Mad Max," finally got its fourquel. In three weeks we'll have "Jurassic World" and two weeks after that "Terminator: Genisys" — both part of franchises launched between 20 and 30 years ago. Later this season comes "Vacation," which revives the National Lampoon series begun in 1983, and by year's end we get the first in a new rash of "Star Wars" movies, which will presumably spin off and procreate even after humankind itself has perished.

There are a couple of original movies coming out, but this is for the most part all we get: An endless stream of the same-old-same-old — an infinity loop where all is familiar, all is a brand, reaching back into the 1980s and beyond. Even if you've never seen the original "Poltergeist" (or its two decreasingly useful sequels) ,you've heard the name, and if you have seen the original then you're likely steeped in nostalgia for a film that scared you 33 years ago.

This is, of course, what we want, but what we want is complicated. We don't just want the familiar; we now want the sprawling, if not endless. As we're tirelessly reminded, we currently live in a new Golden Age of television, where people don't just binge-watch several episodes in one fell swoop but stew in these worlds, emerging from watching only to talk about it on social media and sometimes IRL.

This inevitably has bled into the movies, where studios finally have an excuse to create elaborate intertwined worlds, and make billions doing it. Every film is connected in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and soon the same will go for DC — each label spinning off their own "Breaking Bad"-sized stories that go on forever, with no end in sight.

It can be reactionary to criticize audiences for only wanting the familiar. But it's still a problem. The abundance of regurgitated product — not just remakes but movies about comics that have been around since, in Superman's case, 1938 — taps into the old concept of the infantalization of culture. Two generations have grown up in a world with "Star Wars," and even grown, professional adults can be reduced to kid-like wonder when a new trailer for its next episode, "The Force Awakens," crashes the Internet.

This may sound bleak but it doesn't have to be. "Star Wars" has new blood in it, including directors J.J. Abrams and Rian Johnson, who seem to be taking an aging franchise in similar but different directions. "Similar but different," though, may be as close as the future will get to an original idea. It would be nice if, just to mix it up, Hollywood spent more time dreaming up something fresh. After all, original films would one day make for great films to remake, reboot and revive.

The next "Star Wars" film gets a new (but old) look. / LUCASFILM

Sorry, nerds

Even Simon Pegg — a nerd who's made a pretty penny on making nerdism mainstream — recently told Radio Times that he worries about nerd culture. "Now we're all consuming childish things," he said. "Films used to be about challenging, emotional journeys or moral questions that might make you walk away and re-evaluate how you felt about ... whatever. Now we're really not thinking about anything, other than the fact that the Hulk just had a fight with a robot."

This isn't entirely true. At its best, nerd culture writing connects these seemingly frivolous products to challenging, moral questions. But serious fare used to have more seats at the table. The stirring courtroom dramas of yesterday are the VOD miscellany of today, barely seeing movie theaters, if at all. Real drama is on TV; movies are just a big green guy, created decades before you were born, smashing things.

Dieter Laser channels Dennis Hopper in "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2" in the last "Human Centipede." IFC FILMS

'The Human Centipede 3 (Final Sequence)'

Director: Tom Six
Stars: Dieter Laser, Laurence R. Harvey
Rating: NR

●●○○○

There's a lot of unpleasantness in the alleged final "Human Centipede," but the shocking thing is almost none of it involves the vomit-y, titular premise. The third and final entry promises the longest man-'pede yet, but you'll have to wait for the final stretch to peep it. Instead, this time it's the people, mostly actor Dieter Laser, who are the real shockers. Laser was the mad scientist of the first film, and though he howled and freaked out, he never howled or freaked out as much or at the intensity he does here. He's been recast as the insane warden of George H. W. Bush Prison (ho ho), who decides, eventually, that he'll fix his crazed prison by sewing all 500 inmates together, with mouths to A's.

Till he does that, though, it's The Dieter Laser Show. Rocking a cowboy hat while rattling off all manner of racist, sexist epithets, his antihero engages in more traditional, and therefore more boring, transgressions than the one in the title, some of them involving eating testicles, but many involving abusing his comely secretary. Is the crappiness supposed to be the joke? This third "Human Centipede" is the most self-aware of the series, even having writer-director Tom Six swing by as a douchey version of himself. And yet even without the old watch-through-the-fingers sights, this third entry is still unwatchable, just in a fashion one can get from any grindhouse gore franchise. Only its commitment to comedic hopelessness, complete with a mad final shot, makes it seem more than surgically connected to its other, superior partners. MP

'When Marnie Was There'

Director: Hiromasa Yonebayashi
Voices of: Sara Takatsuki, Kasumi Arimura
Rating: NR

●●●○○

Since 1985, no animation house has been as reliable as Japan's Studio Ghibli, best known for its rock star king Hayao Miyazaki ("Spirited Away," "Princess Mononoke") but responsible for so much more. Allegedly, "When Marnie Was There" is their final outing, and if so, it's a quietly unassuming farewell. Made by Miyazaki mentee Hiromasa Yonebayashi ("The Secret Life of Arrietty"), it takes a look at a glum 12-year-old whose life perks up when she relocates to the country and finally makes a friend. Thing is, the friend is either imaginary or a ghost or something else entirely.

"When Marnie Was There" involves a little girl's imaginary friend. GKIDS

"Marnie" doesn't have the highs or the feverish imagination of a Miyazaki — or an Isao Takahata ("Grave of the Fireflies") — but it has the same love for serenity and deep compassion. The friendship between the two girls is very much like deep love, and though there's a surprise twist at the end, it remains a paean to the kind of deep connection that can only be made when young. Even if it weren't, it would be a beaut to get lost in — all sharply-drawn country greens and blues. It makes you think Studio Ghibli will live forever, even in death. MP

'Tomorrowland' is one eccentric Disney movie

There's not a ton of time spent in "Tomorrowland"'s alternate universe techie metropolis, but when it's there, it's a lot of star Britt Robertson staring at stuff. DISNEY

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George Clooney and Britt Robertson play tech wizards out to save Tomorrowland, an alternate universe realm that faintly resembles the retro-futurist Disneyland theme park area, from an evil despot (Hugh Laurie). And all this somehow has to do with global warming.

The lowdown: "Tomorrowland" is not just another Disney theme park movie. It's been completely co-opted by its eccentric filmmaker, animator-turned-live-action director Brad Bird, who can do what he wants after "The Incredibles," "Ratatouille" and the last "Mission: Impossible." And so he has: Thinking way outside the box, he's taken a sorry assignment — make a blockbuster not about a Disneyland ride but a Disneyland area — and turned it into an oftentimes delightfully strange, only sometimes creepily Ayn Randian ode to genius unfettered by pesky second-guessers and evil bureaucrats.

It's more than that: It's an environmentalist screed, complete with a big speech that's not subtle even for a blob of liberal-minded entertainment. But "Tomorrowland" is entertaining entertainment, even when its many parts aren't quite fitting together. At its best, it gets caught up in the moment and inside its set pieces and its sometimes snaky, convoluted plot structure. It mostly charms its way out of its problems and even goes relatively light on Bird's Objectivist leanings, which he likes to embed in movies as couldn't-resist subtext. Tomorrowland itself is described as though it were the John Galt compound from "Atlas Shrugged": a place where the brilliant can thrive, "free of politics, bureaucracy, greed." It turns out to be more complicated than that, but even if it wasn't, Bird still has a knack for turning his questionable ideas into beautifully made and deeply involving romps that nearly fool you into buying its crackpot philosophy.

'Tomorrowland'

Director: Brad Bird
Stars: George Clooney, Britt Robertson
Rating: PG

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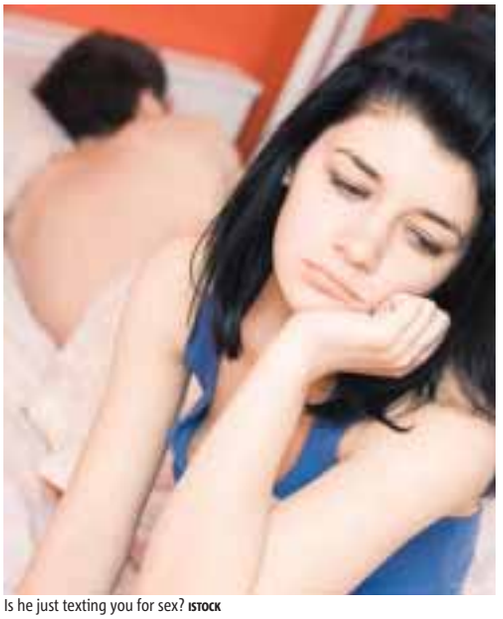
HOW DO I GO FROM BOOTY CALL TO GIRLFRIEND?

Dear Charles:
I've gone out a few times with a new guy. Every date has been amazing. Too amazing, actually, because I ended up at his place at the end of the second date. (The sex was mind-blowing, by the way). We've been dating for the last couple of months, but at the end of every date he wants to go back to his place. It's become very routine: I talk and text with him all week, then Thursday afternoon he asks what I'm doing Friday night. He picks me up, we have a great time and then — you know.

I sent him a text last Sunday (the morning after) because I'm getting confused. He finally answered me the next Friday morning with an excuse of "Sorry, I've been busy," and a promise that we would talk that night. Same date. No discussion. Great sex. No clarity from him.

What's the deal? Am I just being used (because I feel like I am)?
—A



Is he just texting you for sex? ISTOCK

Hi, A:
The fact that he didn't address your feelings is an obvious red flag. From his behavior, he seems to be using his charm to make you feel the right way to lower your guard and raise your skirt. From there, he just needs to play things cool and keep you guessing, wondering and chasing him, until the next Thursday night, so he can set up another date.

Here's the harsh truth: If you have been dating a guy for a few weeks and all he has are Friday nights available, there is a very good chance that he's full of s— and is playing you. Two months is enough time to establish what's what for a relationship in its early stages. You don't need to know if you are getting married (obviously), but to know if he wants to spend some time with you should be a no-brainer. He should want that, too.

My gut: He's texting 24 hours in advance for a regular Friday night booty call. Can that change? Perhaps, but only if he really wants to invest — only if he's truly interested in you.

My advice: Put your needs out clearly. Then back off and let him do his half of the work. If he is really into you, he will put in real effort beyond a text message looking for sex. If not, he'll stop contact — which will save your head the stress of wondering and your heart the pain of being used. However, I would bet that if the sex is really good, he will play the role of "good guy" for a while, until you let your guard down again, and then return to the "I'm busy" routine. You would have to hold the line of "I will not settle for second best" and create a scenario where he needs to value you and invest. If he refuses, it's time to move on.

For exclusive commentary, visit **Metro.us/blogs**

Real-world love advice

CHARLES J. ORLANDO

WEBSITE: THEPROBLEMISMEN.COM

CHARLES J. ORLANDO IS A RELATIONSHIP EXPERT AND AUTHOR OF THE BEST-SELLING BOOK SERIES "THE PROBLEM WITH WOMEN ... IS MEN." VISIT METRO.US/CHARLES-J-ORLANDO FOR MORE COLUMNS.

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Horoscope

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20 Change is in the air. You have critical choices ahead of you, so don't rush to make a move until you have your plans in place.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22 Choose your words carefully. A hasty retort issued in anger will lead to a rift between you and a friend or relative.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 Delegate jobs in order to avoid being burdened with too many responsibilities.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 This is a perfect day for love. Your instincts are right on the money, and your appeal has never been stronger.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 Revealing too much will backfire on you. Keep your secrets private, no matter who is asking.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Spending quality time with loved ones will strengthen your bonds with them. Your creativity and magnetism will impress your allies and stymie any competition you encounter along the way.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Get involved. No one will listen to an armchair quarterback.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Even though things are running smoothly, everyone has ups and downs. If you are feeling anxious or unsure, take time to remember all of the good things in your life.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You probably have too many irons in the fire. Edit your options and focus on those that will bring you the most satisfaction.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 Romance is heating up. Shower someone special with personal attention and show your devotion.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20 You are a kind and caring individual, so don't let a harmless remark cause you concern. Some people enjoy criticizing others. It gives them a feeling of superiority. Walk away.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21 Don't get drawn into a quarrel with someone who doesn't share your beliefs. It's doubtful that an argument will make a difference to either one of you in the end. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		6			8			1
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3			7			4		

		5		7	3			8
				2			6	9
2	8					7		
	1		5		9			
4			2		8			3
			7		4		2	
		3					8	5
9	2			5				
5			3	8		1		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is fast approaching, and I hope the many will not forget the importance of this day. Memorial Day is not just another day off to shop for sales or backyard barbecuing. In my opinion Memorial Day is a time to remember all those who gave their lives to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. This Memorial Day I find myself thinking what it means to be an American. The answer is crystal clear, and that is the pride to live in a country that allows us the personal freedom to speak our minds. These freedoms come with great personal sacrifice for those who leave family, friends and jobs to serve the greater good. I myself have served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era. Although I never did see combat, I had friends who did and died serving our country. So this Memorial Day please honor those who gave their lives for those things we hold most dear. You can do this by attending parades and ceremonies in your local communities and saluting those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Let us also not forget those who serve on the home front like police, firefighters, and the EMS for serving us so well. You can also call a veteran you know and thank them for serving and keeping us free from tyranny. Remember this: Our flag is red, white, and blue and these colors don't run.

FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR.

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Visit us online at **Metro.us.**

Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

Crossword

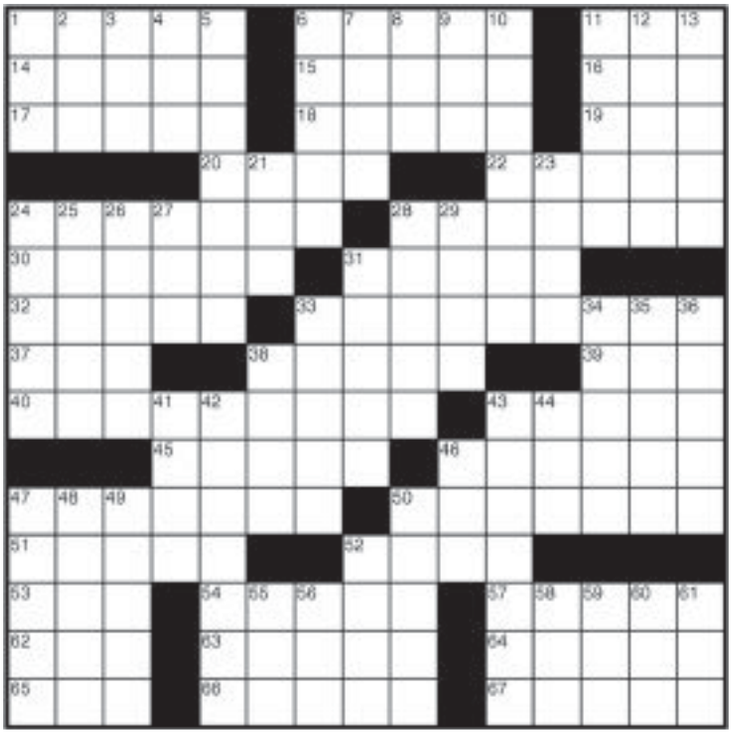
Across

1 Bullwinkle, e.g.
6 Lady's honorific
11 Take the title
14 Debate issue
15 Susan Lucci vamp
16 Garden tool
17 Indefinite time
18 Take a sip
19 Blow away
20 Crazed captain
22 Dieter's lunch
24 Floppy-eared dog
28 Pet shop cuties
30 Fictional Queen
31 Peter, in Panama
32 Surprise attacks
33 Huge
37 Versatile vehicle
38 Kid's dad
39 Fix a squeak
40 Big city in Mexico
43 Fiery dance
45 .Vine-covered
46 .More muddy
47 .Leopard cousins
50 Book store?
51 Forward-looking verb
52 -- -de-camp
53 Back muscle, for short
54 Mr. Lombardi
57 Slightly tinted
62 "Green" prefix
63 Southfork surname
64 Demean
65 L. -- Hubbard
66 Gift recipient
67 Chilly

Down

1 Alps, for short
2 Oola's guy
3 Unfold, in poetry
4 -- vous plait
5 Creamy pastries
6 Gold or silver
7 Tent dweller
8 Bad-mouth
9 Do something
10 Symphony VIP
11 Ambergris source
12 Hawkeye
13 Has to have
21 Attention getter
23 On the summit
24 Vaccine
25 Aristotle's teacher
26 UFO pilot
27 Composer -- Rorem
28 Pogo's creator
29 Lazily
31 Blanched
33 Cables
34 Ancient Greek colony
35 Timbuktu's river
36 Morning --
38 Plankton
41 Money drawer
42 Developed gradually
43 Lama, usually
44 Flight stat
46 Halfway
47 Famed Canadian doctor
48 -- Canyon (Pueblo cultural area)
49 Shirley of "Goldfinger"
50 Feudal vassal
52 Teen bane
55 -- Jima
56 Author Anais --
58 Teahouse attire
59 Forty winks
60 Mind reader's gift
61 Susan of "L.A. Law"

Thursday's answer



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Tampa's pace a big issue for Rangers

NHL. Breakdowns have plagued the Rangers thus far.

For the Rangers, Tyler Johnson has been a nightmare to deal with. / GETTY IMAGES

The Rangers are learning what Detroit and Montreal have come to know. Tampa's Triplets are as dynamic a line as exists in the National Hockey League.

"They've impressed me for a long time," Lightning head coach Jon Cooper said after Nikita Kucherov potted the game-winner 3:33 into overtime to give the Tampa Bay Lightning a 6-5 win over the Rangers in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals. Tampa leads the best-of-seven series two games to one. Game 4 is Friday (8 p.m., NBCSN) at Amalie Arena.

"Now, they're impressing the world. It's fun to watch," Cooper said.

Unless, of course, you have to defend against them. Then it becomes something else entirely.

In a wild, back-and-forth Game 3 that was often reminiscent of 1980s hockey, the triumvirate of Tyler Johnson, Ondrej Palat and Kucherov combined for four goals, three assists and seven points.

Through the first three games of the conference finals, the Triplets have torched the Rangers for eight goals and eight assists. Much of that has occurred in the last two games, as the line has tallied seven goals, seven assists and 14 points.

"I think it's just [that] Palat and [Kucherov] and I — we can move, we can skate," Johnson said. "We like to think that we kind of know exactly what we're going to do before we even have the puck, so you don't really have to take that extra second to look and think. For whatever reason, we just kind of have that chemistry with each other, and it's been a blast this year."

The Lightning as a whole, and that line in particular, have been able to use their speed and creativity to force the up-tempo Rangers to play at a pace and style that has created significant breakdowns in the neutral and defensive zones.

The Rangers have too often ceded the blue line against the Lightning and have been caught chasing the puck in the defensive zone. The breakdowns have essentially allowed Tampa's skaters to go one-on-one with Henrik Lundqvist in prime scoring areas.

DENIS GORMAN
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Playoff season

Holiday sports feast on tap

Memorial Day Weekend is one of the more underrated stretches on the sports calendar as the NBA and NHL playoffs are both typically in their respective conference finals. A look at what's on tap this weekend:

Friday
Cavs at Hawks (8:30 p.m., TNT): Many believe that the Cavs already have this thing wrapped up, but it's highly unlikely that J.R. Smith will look like a 24-year-old Ray Allen again — like ever.

Rangers at Lightning (8 p.m., NBCSN): Henrik Lundqvist would never let up six goals in three straight games, would he? Against the high-powered Lightning, anything seems possible.

Saturday
Warriors at Rockets (9 p.m., ESPN): Jason Terry was born in the '70s. He starts for a Rockets team looking to knock off a 67-win team that has the 2014-15 league MVP. Veterans win in the playoffs, but Terry may have already crossed that line from "wise" to "worn out."

Ducks at Blackhawks (8 p.m., NBC): This series has seven games, and a few more OTs, written all over it.

Sunday
Hawks at Cavs (8:30 p.m., TNT): Yes, Smith dominated Game 1, but fellow former Knick Iman Shumpert popped in a whopping four points in 34 minutes.

Lightning at Rangers (8 p.m., NBCSN): Rick Nash's goal-scoring issues are well documented, but he hasn't had an assist since Game 4 of the Washington series.

Monday
Warriors at Rockets (9 p.m., ESPN): File under "impressive:" James Harden's low point total for one game this postseason was a 20-point outing in Game 1 of the Clippers series.

Blackhawks at Ducks (Game 5, 9 p.m., NBCSN): Blackhawks goaltender Corey Crawford deserves some overtime pay for his 60-save effort in Game 2. Throw some cash Frederik Andersen's way too. The Ducks' netminder deflected 53 shots in that epic. MATT BURKE

Kingdom, come on

Henrik Lundqvist has looked mortal in the last two games, both Rangers losses, as he's given up a total of 12 goals.

- He gave up 12 goals total in the entire seven-game series against the Capitals.
- He did not allow six goals in any game all of last postseason. His worst performance last playoffs was a five-goal loss in Game 2 against the Kings, although that was a 2OT affair.

3

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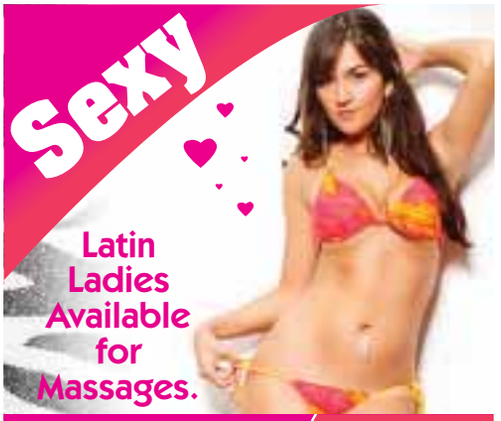

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Transportation providers and other interested parties are hereby notified that Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, Inc. located at 3001 West 37th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11224, is applying for a grant, under Section 5310 of Chapter 53 of Title 49, United States Code, for Transportation and Mobility Management services within Brooklyn to meet the needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. The purpose of this notice is to invite private for-profit bus, taxi, ambulette operators and other interested parties to participate in the development of proposed grant project(s) and in the provision of enhanced transportation services to elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities. Please contact Abigail Adler at 718-449-5000 ext. 2275 within 15 calendar days of this public notice to request a copy of the project(s) proposed. Comments on proposed projects must be submitted to that Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, Inc. within 15 calendar days after receipt of the proposed project information.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Senior Citizen Transportation Program
BID SOLICITATION

Car, Ambulette and/or Bus Service companies interested in participating in the 2015 competitive bidding process for contracts for the provision of transportation services to frail elderly residing throughout Brooklyn, NY may (starting Tuesday, May 26, 2015) obtain copies of a "Request for Bids" (containing specifications and an application) from the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, Inc., 3001 West 37th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11224-1479, Att: Avigail Adler, Coordinator of Transportation Services, 718-449-5000 ext.2275. The final closing date and time for acceptance of bids will be Monday, June 8th, 2015, at 4:30 P.M.

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REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE REVOCABLE CONSENT AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

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